

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (new): An apparatus for converting thermal energy to another energy form comprising at least one heat input and accumulator module having:

 a heat-input transmitting device;

 an accumulator, wherein the heat-input transmitting device and the accumulator are connected to one another to facilitate the exchange of fluid therebetween; and

 an energy conversion device connected to the accumulator to facilitate the exchange of fluid therebetween, wherein the energy conversion device is configured to convert energy built up as fluid pressure in the heat input and accumulator module into the another energy form.

Claim 10 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a plurality of heat input and accumulator modules connected to a distribution unit, wherein each of the individual heat input and accumulator modules are connected intermittently to the energy conversion device.

Claim 11 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the energy conversion device is a hydraulic motor and optionally also a generator connected to the hydraulic motor and configured to generate current.

Claim 12 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the energy conversion device is a hydraulic lifting apparatus or a torque-storing apparatus.

Claim 13 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a heat exchanger connected to the energy conversion device, and wherein the heat exchanger is

connected to the heat-input transmitting device via a circulation pump.

Claim 14 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a defoaming and dehumidifying reservoir situated between the heat exchanger and the circulation pump.

Claim 15 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the heat-input transmitting device is a solar collector.

Claim 16 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the heat-input transmitting device is an internal combustion engine.

Claim 17 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the energy conversion device is a hydraulic motor and optionally also a generator connected to the hydraulic motor and configured to generate current.

Claim 18 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the energy conversion device is a hydraulic lifting apparatus or a torque-storing apparatus.

Claim 19 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a heat exchanger connected to the energy conversion device, and wherein the heat exchanger is connected to the heat-input transmitting device via a circulation pump.

Claim 20 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a defoaming and dehumidifying reservoir situated between the heat exchanger and the circulation pump.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the heat-input transmitting device is a solar collector.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the heat-input transmitting device is an internal combustion engine.